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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	USSR (Moldavian and Ukrainian SSR)/ Rumania	REPORT NO.	25X1
SUBJECT	Building of Fortifications on the Prut and Dnestr Rivers	DATE DISTR.	22 September 1953
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25X1 1. In May 1953 the fortifications building program on the banks of the Prut and the Dnestr Rivers was completed. This building program was started in summer 1952. Other projects also are to be fitted into this defense belt which stretches from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

25X1 2. Solid defense points in the form of reinforced concrete bunkers for guns and machine guns were erected on the east bank of the Prut River for the defense of the important crossing points at Skulyany (N 47-20, E 27-37), Ungeny (N 47-12, E 27-50), on the highway between Kishinev (N 47-00, E 28-50) and Husi (N 46-41, E 28-04), Leova (N 46-28, E 28-15), and at Paleiu (N 46-18, E 28-07). These defense strong points were strengthened by tank traps on both sides of the Prut River; at the same time sites for future mine fields at the approaches to the river crossings were marked off. The concrete bunkers were connected by ordinary trenches so that when necessary a defense strong point could be reinforced in the area most severely threatened.

25X1 3. Between the defense points the area is to be defended entirely by a loose system of ordinary trenches which evidently were prepared in sections on the east bank of the Prut River.

25X1 4. The adjacent forests served as a source of lumber for the building of all such installations as munition dumps and personnel bunkers.

25X1 5. The work in the area of Lipkany (N 48-18, E 26-48), on the west bank of the Prut River, was carried out by prisoners from the Rumanian concentration camp at Pomarla (N 48-04, E 26-25). Prisoners from Soviet camps in Bessarabia worked on the east bank of the Prut River.

25X1 6. On the east bank of the Dnestr River the concrete bunkers for guns and machine guns were built into the rocky projecting slopes in the hilly area at Khoten (N 48-30, E 26-30) and Kamenets-Podolskiy (N 48-40, E 26-34).

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7. Other concrete bunkers for the defense of the railroad and vehicular bridge were constructed between Ataki (N 48-32, E 26-26) and Mogilev-Podolskiy (N 48-26, E 27-49).
8. On the east bank of the Dnestr River opposite Soroke (N 48-08, E 28-19) and in the Yampol (N 48-15, E 28-17) area the concrete bunkers are weaker and fewer in number. Therefore, an extensive net of tank traps as well as numerous adjoining minefields were established.
9. The railroad and vehicular bridge at Rybnitsa (N 47-45, E 28-59) is defended by a system of concrete bunkers.
10. The Bendery (N 46-49, E 29-28) - Tiraspol (N 46-50, E 29-36) area has been developed into a strong defense area. A defense belt of concrete bunkers encircles the city of Bendery, and is particularly strong in the direction of Kishinev (see sketch). Beside that, the old Turkish fortress of Bendery on the west bank of the Dnestr River, directly west of the railroad and vehicular bridge across the river, was altered and reconstructed into a strong defense point. Several AA batteries are stationed in the fortress. The fortress as well as the two western piers of the important railroad and vehicular bridge across the Dnestr River (see sketch) have been mined. The electric lines controlling the detonating of the charges at the fortress and bridge lead to the command bunker at a railroad embankment about 35 meters from the eastern terminus of the bridge. An engineer battalion from the village of Parkany (N 46-50, E 29-29), which is situated between the bridge and the city of Tiraspol, was selected to guard (Beaufsichtigung) the defense installations in this area.
11. Between the strong defense points on the east bank of the Dnestr River only ordinary trenches, similar to those in the Prut River area, serve as a defense measure.
12. The defense work in the Dnestr River area between Khetin and Tiraspol was done by prisoners from concentration camps in the Moldavian SSR.
13. With few exceptions (e.g., Bendery) the newly built bunkers and other defense installations in the Prut and Dnestr River areas are not equipped with guns nor occupied by military units. The buildings are surrounded with barbed wire obstacles. There are also warning signs which forbid trespassing in the area and point out the existence of mines.

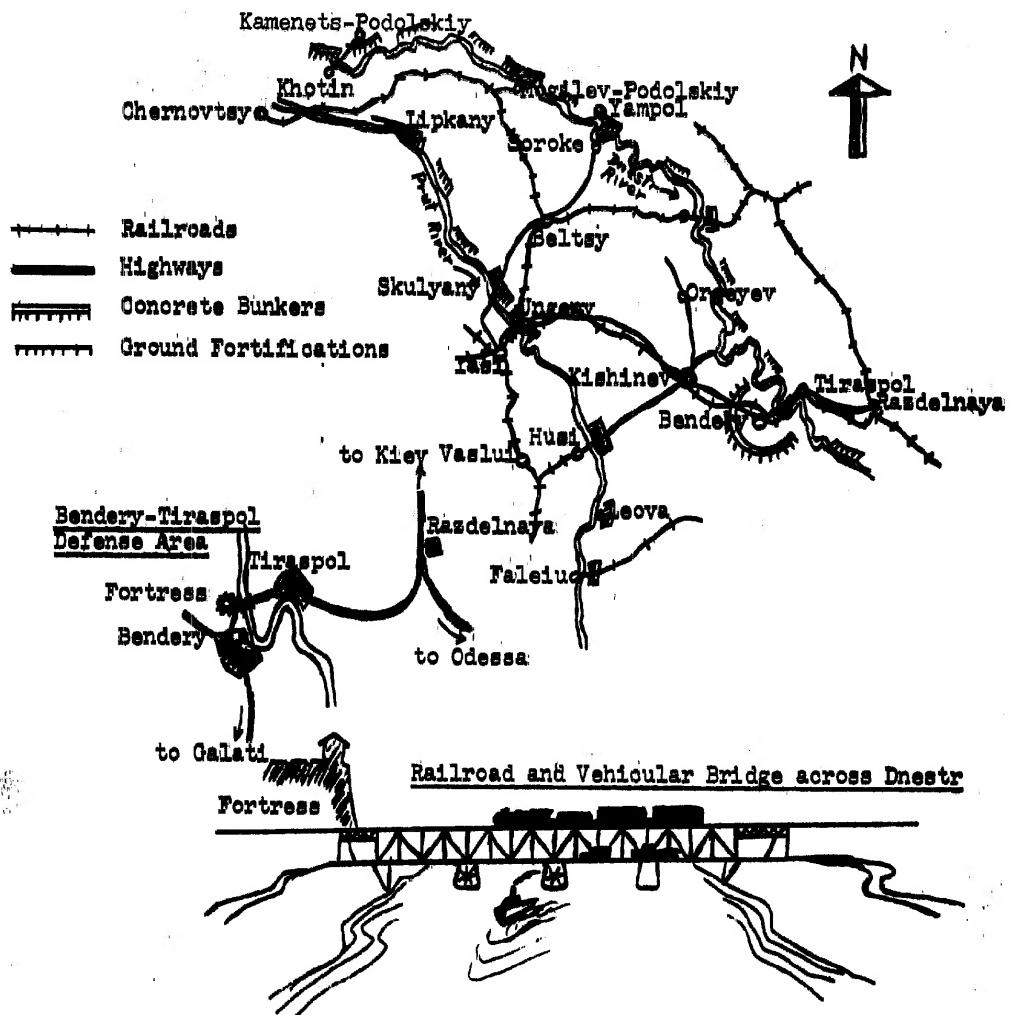
See sketch of the Prut and Dnestr Rivers defense areas on next page.

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Prut and Dnestr Rivers Defense Area



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